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ABSTRACT

A system for providing security for programs installed in a computer is disclosed in which the original program is divided into versions of increasing functionality and in which higher functioning versions depend upon and utilize security-related attributes of the computer on which the program is to be executed. The versions are installed on the user's computer. Upon initiation of execution of the lowest functioning version, the security-related attributes of the user's computer are inspected and the execution of the second version is initiated in the place of the first version if the security-related attributes of the second computer support the increased functionality of the second version. If so, the security-related attributes are used in the second version prior to execution. In either case, the remaining version is then executed without the need for further intervention for security purposes.